May Day Celebration. Cancordia Hall, April 30. Be There.

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

No tree takes such deep root as prejudice.

The fear of want is the beginning of many evils.

In this world it is hard to get rich, but it is harder if you don't.

The present year will probably be known in history as the year of war on earth and ill will among men.

To-day, millions are attempting to stamp out Prussian militarism by militarism. It is like adding fuel to a fire.

The capitalist spell-binder has a message for the world, and it is—"slaughter and be slaughtered."

Hundreds of young men, finding that they cannot sell their labor-power to profit takers, are selling it to life-takers.

Women are not the only white slaves under capitalism. Men also are bought and enslaved, even in Australia.

The cableliar excelled himself last week when he informed a gasping world that a merchant vessel had been torpedoed off the coast of England. Many were drowned, he said, but the vessel was undamaged.

It is announced that Rockefeller is devoting large sums to the relief of distress in Belgium. The money he spends in Belgium has been secured from mines and other industries in America where distress is wide-spread.

The average worker spends about ten hours daily twisting his body with hard manual labor. When he goes home, he spends an hour twisting his mind by reading a lying capitalist sheet.

"Does Socialism mean dividing up?" This is a question often asked by men whose life has known nothing but hard work, ignorance, and penury. They would have some difficulty in finding anyone who would want to divide up with them.

Does your neighbour read the "International?" If he doesn't, that is an incentive to you to get busy.

The cost of living is still going up, the reason being that those who produce the necessaries of life hand them over to those who don't produce them to sell for profit for themselves.

Workers, why is it that profits in the big businesses and great trusts steadily increase, while your wages remain at the subsistence level? Can you not see that one has an important bearing on the other.

If there were no poor people, how could the rich get along? Riches would command no servants unless a system enabled the rich to keep a portion of the people in want. The poor are kept poor so that the rich may have menials to do their bidding. The poor could get along very well without the idle rich, but how could the rich get along without the poor?

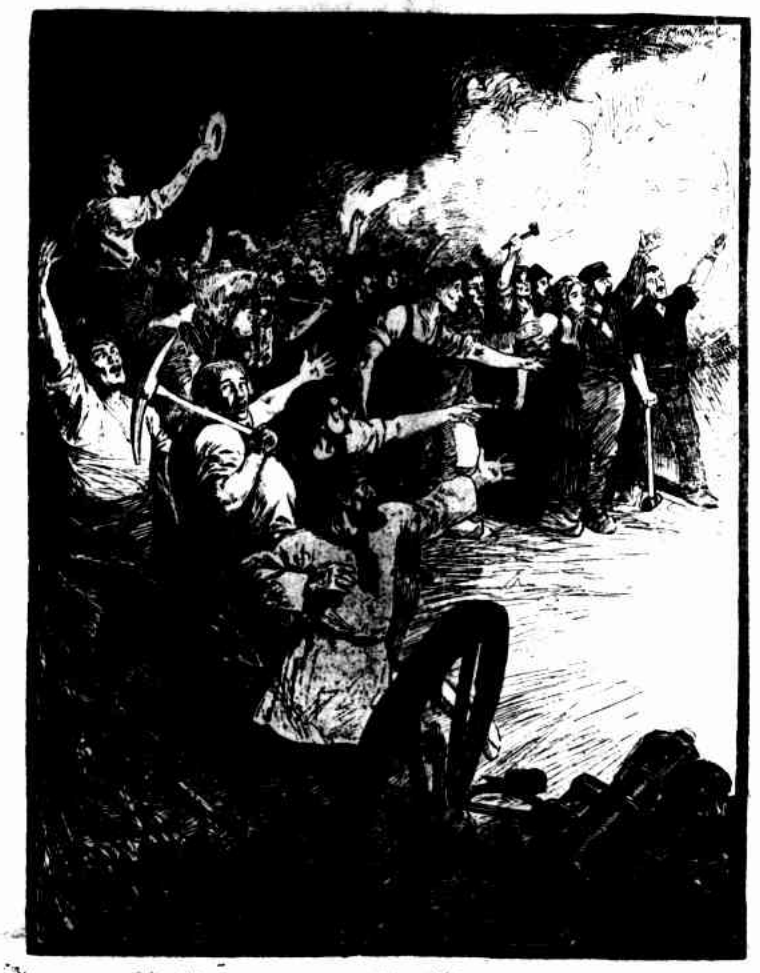
Liberty for individual action can only come to all through social co-operation.

Are you thinking of following the King? If you are, you probably think you want a leader to follow—as sheep follow a bell-wether. What you really want is not a leader but teachers and those who, while not slaves, love to serve you.

True patriotism and love of country includes love of the working people of the country, and resents the idea of giving all the good to the few masters of the bread.

Bend and the world bends with you: kick and you kick alone.

Capitalists regard Socialism as a disease. Well, it certainly is very catching, and the quacks of Capitalism cannot effect a cure.



The Dawn of a New Era.

Of course you are not a slave, but why do you have to ask another man for a job?

Society without revolution is as useless as machinery when the wheels do not go round. Social revolutions seem peacable, but in reality they are accompanied with untold suffering and loss of life.

Poverty is necessary under Capitalism. The workers have to be kept poor so they can be robbed.

The abolition of capitalism and the establishment of Socialism will open the way for employment for all; guarantee each worker his full social product and end poverty.

The chains that bind you are made of paper titles, bonds, share certificates, licenses, etc. And you revere them more than the savage does a wooden idol.

Two kinds of people are satisfied with present conditions—those who have been brutalised and mentally stunted by work and poverty, and those who live well off on other people's toil.

Thousands of soldiers and sailors have been blinded in the present European war, and a Committee has been formed in London to work in their behalf. There are millions being mentally blinded also by the war, but it is left to the Socialists to endeavour to restore their sight.

We read and hear a good deal about the abolition of war nowadays, but war cannot be abolished while production for profit and competition markets exist. The germs of warfare are in our system of production, and the destruction of these germs, not the Germans, is the real work to be done.

A Sydney lino-operative made an amusing blunder the other day when he set up "the Labor party's platform of platitudes," instead of "the Labor party's platform of palliatives." He got near the mark by mistake.

"One of the most praiseworthy accomplishments of the New South Wales Government to date is the establishment of the system of medical inspection of school children. It is essential to the well-being of any community that the growing generation—the future producers—shall be virile and efficient, physically and mentally, and the examination of the young by properly-qualified experts is the first step towards the desired consummation." —The "Australian Worker."

Is it? We have been harboring the old-fashioned notion that the first step is to secure for the children a plentiful supply of good food, with good clothing and housing thrown in. It is a poor policy which neglects to secure these things, and then appoints highly paid doctors to note how bad the youngsters look.

The Defence authorities have reduced the pay of military chaplains and the patriotic preachers are angry. Mere glory may be all very well for the ordinary soldier; but the man who invokes the aid of the Almighty wants something more material than that hollow sound.

N.S.W. P.L.L. Conference has resolved that landlords should not be permitted to distrain for rent, nor be preferential creditors.

"Premier Denham of Queensland, according to advices from 'the front,' is going to have a hard job to retain the Oxley seat. His Labor opponent is Tom Jones, one of the State's most successful business men, yet one of its best bosses, and one of its most advanced Socialists. Naturally, Denham is remembering how South Australia's Liberal Premier lost the number of his mess—and it isn't altogether a comforting recollection."—"The Australian Worker."

So the prospective Labor member for Oxley is "one of the State's most successful business men," and "one of its best bosses," and "one of its most advanced Socialists." Well! Well! From Denham to Jones—what a revolutionary step!

Now that Labour Premier Earle, of Tasmania, is safely seated in the saddle, he is abominating the idea of "spoils to the victors." For years the unionists have been toiling to get a Labour government into power under the impression that when they succeeded such a government would do something for them. Now, the head of their own Government is shocked at the bare idea that he would show any preference to unionists as against non-unionists. He scouts the notion that he should be expected to favour his own side when he has the chance, though he has for many years been fostering this belief in the minds of his followers. He evidently thinks Labourites enter into politics for fun, and not for any material gains. Or perhaps he thinks they have reached the goal of their ambition when they have put Mr. Earle into a fine, fat billet, and should be satisfied with their achievement. If Premier Earle understands politics, he must know that Parliament is a battle-ground for interests, and that he was sent there to represent the interests of the workers as against the champions of those of their opponents.

A correspondent writing in Sydney "Daily Telegraph" (22/4/15), says: "I have three sons gone to fight the Germans. All my sons, in fact, are under arms. If I had 30 I would wish them all there." The spirit of the Roman father of two thousand years ago still survives.

Money cannot buy happiness, but it can keep out the cold and keep in the food, and that helps.

N.S.W. Comptroller-General of Prisons says that about three-fourths of the men who go to gaol go there because they are unable to pay the fines imposed upon them by magistrates. The Comptroller sees clearly enough that the present system is useless, but his remedy would not be very effective. Unemployment is admittedly the greatest cause of poverty and so-called crime, and no amount of fining and gaoling will cure this. Make it possible for all men to work and enjoy the fruits of their toil, and we should have little vagrancy and theft.

At the Anglican Synod, at Hobart, the Archdeacon of Hobart moved:—"That this synod, believing that the Empire is engaged in the European war in the cause of righteousness, and is furthering the highest interests of civilisation, desires to place on record its thankfulness for the deep spirit of British patriotism and unity called forth by the war, and earnestly trusts that the willingness to proffer personal service and the readiness to generously provide means for carrying on the struggle will continue until by the good hand of God upon the efforts of the Allied forces on land and sea, honourable, fruitful, and lasting peace may be secured." Is it not wonderful how faith survives? Here are the Allies, and their opponents, Germans, Austrians, and Turks, all catching it as hot as mortals ever did in this poor old world, still believing that they have the Almighty on their side.

In many quarters, said Rev. W. T. Kench, in an address at the Congregational Union, it was taken for granted that the terrible river of blood now flowing was cleansing away human selfishness and preparing for the triumph of righteousness and a golden age. But this by no means followed. There was always reaction after high effort and prolonged excitement and strain, and human nature had still to be changed. If militarism conquered, then its effect upon the masses of the people would be far-reaching. The proletariat would relapse into the economic bondage from which it was slowly emerging before the war began, and the last state of the multitude would be worse than the first. On the other hand, if the nations awoke from their dream of military glory and lust of dominion, they might live to see the dawn of world-wide brotherhood.

If the present orgy of blood doesn't awake the nations, it is difficult to see what will. It is a sign of such awakening, when ministers are talking of the "proletariat" and "economic bondage." Socialist terms and ideas are permeating the church.

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Not with tickling rhymes,
Or common-places filched that take these times,
But high and noble matter, such as flies
From brains entranced and filled with ecstasies.
—Ben Jonson.

May Day and Red Week.

On May Day we have been wont to look beyond the confines of our immediate worries and difficulties out into the great world of advancing International Socialism. In former years we drew hope and inspiration from the growth of that international solidarity of Labor which it was our aim to foster. In every country in the world we saw our Comrades pressing forward, and there was nothing to indicate that there was a weak link anywhere in the vast chain we had been forging.

"No war or battle's sound
Was heard the wide world around;
The idle spear and shield were high uphung;
The hooked chariot stood,
Unstained with hostile blood;
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;
And kings sat still with aweful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by."

Events since then have taught us different. They have taught us that side by side with the growth of International Socialism there was flourishing the gangrene of militarism. This survival of a dark past was being nursed and nurtured by all the elements that lag superflous upon the historic stage, and perhaps we under-estimated the latent power that it had over the average human mind.

The outbreak of war, and the savage brutality with which it has been pursued, have taught us many lessons, and have given us a clearer view of the gigantic task that lies before us. Our work is still one of education. What we ourselves have learned we must communicate to others. In this work we are countered by foes on every hand, who, with consumate cunning, play upon the prejudices and ignorance of those we have to reach.

In inaugurating a revolutionary Red Week the Australasian Socialist Party is demonstrating its vitality and determination. It is showing in a practical way that it intends to redouble its efforts in educating towards revolution. The task of inaugurating a Red Week at the present time is much more difficult than it might have been in former years, but it may be easier now than it might be in the future. There is this consideration to inspire us to use every effort to make the functions a success. Let all Comrades do their duty and work together to make May 1915 memorable in the annals of Socialism in Australia.

During Red Week it will be impossible for every comrade to take a part in the celebrations at the A.S.P. and Concordia Halls, many are too far away, in other States, etc., but every Internationalist can make a special effort to mark the event by sending in a new sub for the Paper. Let everyone try to get one new subscriber—be a Sub-Hunter for One Week.

CHILDISH MEN.

"Men are but children of a larger growth." As children believe those who have their confidence without analysis or reason, so do most men. If children had their own way, very few would go to school. They do not realise the need of it. So after they come to manhood they pursue their vocation for bread and butter, and let other matters of a serious nature go and depend on others for their, not opinions, but conclusions. In this mental poverty they become easy prey, for designing selfish men. They are told that such men or such parties are their enemies, and they believe it, not having enough knowledge on the subject to use their own reason to determine so important a matter. They grow in that belief, refuse to investigate, and become the hopelessly bigoted instrument of self-oppression. A wise man is never a bigot. He may be a tyrant, but he knows the result of his actions; knows what is good or ill for him. He investigates, and never allows others to do this thinking and draw his conclusions. Read all sides. It is the only safe way.

CAPITALISM DECAYING SOCIALISM IRREPRESSIBLE.

As foretold by Marx the capitalistic governments are in fierce competition for foreign markets to dispose of surplus products. Capitalism must have a market for its "surplus," or it will fall to pieces, while inventions are increasing the productive power of labour and thus producing a constantly increasing "surplus." At the same time the markets of the world for that "surplus" are shrinking. As one example, out of many, Mexico formerly imported large quantities of cotton goods from England. Now Mexicans have cotton mills and cotton fields to supply them and English cotton goods are practically shut out of the Mexican market. The same thing is going on in Brazil and other countries. In China a steel mill has produced at a price, that were it not absorbed at home, would enable them to place Chinese steel in the United States or England at a less price than it can be manufactured here. And so I might go on to specify and prove that while production is increasing, the markets, or former markets, are shrinking. If England, Germany, and the United States, etc., face with increasing production, i.e., increasing "surplus," a decreasing market, what are they going to do about it? The system must change. Capitalism is falling to pieces. Socialism is the only remedy, and it is certain, sure and inevitable outgrowth of conditions.—Rev. Geo. D. Coleman.

INGERSOLL AND SOCIALISM.

(Robert A. Ingersoll, in "Twentieth Century Magazine," 1887.)

To-day the ordinary labourer is for the most part, a cog in the wheel. He works with the tireless, he feeds the insatiable. When the monster stops the man is out of employment—out of bread. He has not saved anything. The machine he fed was not feeding him—the invention was not for his benefit. The other day I heard a man say that for thousands of good mechanics it was almost impossible to get employment, and that in his judgment the Government ought to furnish employment to the people. A few minutes after I heard another say that he was selling a patent for cutting out clothes; that one of the machines could do the work of twenty cutters, and that only the week before he had sold two to a great house in New York, and that over forty cutters had been discharged. The capitalist comes forward with his specific. He tells the workingman that he must be economical—yet under the present system, economy would only lessen wages. Under the great law of supply and demand every saving, frugal and self-denying workingman is unconsciously doing what little he can to reduce the wages of himself and his fellows. The saving mechanic is a certificate that wages are high enough."

"How are we to settle the unequal contest between man and machine? Will the machines finally go into partnership with the labourer? Can these forces of nature be controlled for the benefit of nature's suffering children? Will extravagance keep pace with ingenuity? Will the workingman become intelligent enough and strong enough to become the owners of machines? Can man become intelligent enough to be generous, to be just; or does the same law or fact control him that controls the animal or vegetable world? In the days of cannibalism, the strong devoured the weak—actually ate his flesh. In spite of all the laws that man has made, in spite of all advances in science, the strong, the heartless, still live on the weak, the unfortunate and the foolish. When I take into consideration the agony of civilised life—the failures, the anxieties, the tears, the withered hopes, the bitter realities, the hunger, the crime, the humiliation, the shame—I am almost forced to say that cannibalism, after all, is the most merciful form in which man has ever lived upon his fellow man.

"Is there to be no change? Are the "laws of supply and demand,"' invention and science, monopoly and competition, capital and legislation, always to be the enemies of those who toil? Will the workers always be ignorant enough and stupid enough to give their earnings to the useless? Will they support millions of soldiers to kill the sons of other workingmen? Will they always build palaces and live in dens and huts themselves? Will they forever allow parasites and vampires to live upon their blood? Will they ever remain the slaves of the beggars they support? Will honest men ever stop taking off their hats to successful fraud? Will industry, in the presence of crowned idleness, forever fall upon their knees? Will they ever understand that beggars cannot be generous, and that every healthy man must earn the right to live? Will they ever finally say that the man who has had equal privileges with all others has no right to complain, or will they follow the example set by their oppressors? Will they ever learn that force, to succeed, must have thought behind it, and that anything done in order that it may endure, must rest upon the cornerstone of injustice.?"

SOCIALIST "MATERIALISM."

The so-called materialism of Socialism is based on the following declaration from the "Communist Manifesto," by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels:—

In every historical epoch the prevailing mode of economic production and exchange, and the social organisation necessarily following from it, form the basis upon which is built up and from which alone can be explained the political and intellectual history of that epoch.

This does not say a word about belief or unbelief in God. It does not imply anything about either. It merely says that the manner of making a living determines and explains the attitude of state, court, church and other institutions during every period. That is to say, when feudalism prevailed, it was defended by all. When chattel slavery prevailed, all defended chattel slavery. When capitalism prevails all necessarily defend it. When feudalism and slavery passed away, state, court and the church ceased to defend them. The inference is plain that when capitalism ceases to exist even the Catholic Church will no longer defend profits. This means that the time is coming when the church will ardently advocate the principle of socialisation—that is when Socialism comes into power. That the change is already in progress is shown by the fact that the Catholics, the Methodists and the Unitarians have already adopted a social programme. From this beginning will grow a more and more radical programme, as the members of those churches demand it, until, when Socialism fully comes they will all stand squarely for the new order. Read again the materialistic conception of history as given above and you will discover that it does not deny spirit or soul or seek to end ethical or spiritual development. On the contrary, it implies that when all are supplied with all the material needs, then they will be able to turn attention to ethical questions. Consider how it would be with you personally. If you had a good home, paid for, and an income that would keep you in comfort, would it make you want to spend less for books, music, culture, and religion, or more?

KARL MARX, THE MAN.

(From the London "World" of twenty years ago.)

For over thirty years England was the home of this remarkable man. So quiet and retired was his way of life that nine Englishmen out of ten had never heard his name. You met him quietly walking down Grower-street, a man somewhat middle size, although owing to a slight stoop—the stoop of a student not of the invalid—and to his breadth of shoulder and depth of chest he looked rather less, under his arm would be some papers, for he was on his way to the British Museum Library, where he spent more time than perhaps any other living man, and altogether, with his light tweed coat and soft felt hat, you would take him for the teacher of modern languages in a ladies' school, leisurely making his way from the underground railway station to fulfill his wearisome task. Under the great dome of the library he was, as might be expected, at home, but he made few acquaintances; and the mild divine who rubbed elbows with him at the catalogue-desk, or the lady writer who was just putting the finishing touches to an improving article for the "Quiver" in the next seat at the reading table, had little idea that the grey-bearded reader, half hidden among high piles of books and papers, was the high priest of latter-day Socialism.

The prophet of this new school lived in a plain English house in a quiet by-road of Haverstock Hill, a man noticeable at once, chiefly for the marvellous outlines of a head and face that were surely born to sit on the shoulders of a ruler of men. The brow was massive, and every feature well formed, the whole surrounded by a halo of silver hair, sadly tinged by time, but still somewhat aggressive and unyielding like its owner. The full beard, too, was white, affording a marked contrast to a moustache still black. Most remarkable of all were the eyes, which surely Charles Lamb must have had in his mind when he spoke of the full, dark, inscrutable eyes of the Jew. And Marx was, by descent, a Jew. They seemed to pierce you, as in a gentle but emphatic voice the terrible incendiary talked of the past, with its struggles, its memories of Heine and of Freiligrath, and of the future with its hopes. He was proud of his work, and above all, of "Das Kapital," the first volume of which is eagerly bought and read in every tongue and country of Europe—except our own. That volume contains the almost undivided labour of twenty years, and the motto prefixed, chosen from Dante, represents his ideal of unswerving devotion to a cause.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD ON CHILD LABOUR FOR AGRICULTURE.

The following letter from the Bishop of Oxford appeared in the "Times" of 5th March:—

Sir,—In your leading article of February 27th, you treat as comparatively unimportant under the circumstances of war the anxiety with which some of us view the withdrawal of boys of school age from school for agricultural work. Since I read your article I have been endeavouring to ascertain the facts more precisely. I will not now trouble you with a statement of what exactly the authorities are sanctioning, and a forecast of the use which is being made, and is likely to be made, of the sanction. I will only say that such inquiry as I have been able to make increases the anxiety I cannot but feel. The ground of this anxiety lies in the consideration that the existing shortage is not likely to be temporary. In other words, I do not believe that the young men who have enlisted for the war are likely to return to the land, under the old conditions, after the war. I have taken the opportunity of consulting a number of clergy who know the lads well. They have all expressed the same opinion. The lads are already greatly improved by military service and better feeding. They are greatly pleased with themselves. They are tasting what seems to them a more interesting life than they knew before. Whatever they become after the war, they will not return to what they were. It is therefore not a temporary, but a permanent shortage of labour that has to be met. It must be met, I believe, by improving wages and conditions so as to attract labour to the country; and this improvement had better be begun at once and on a systematic scale. Also education should not be curtailed, but in every way improved so as to make rural education a better preparation for rural life. To meet the shortage by withdrawing boys prematurely from school on a large scale is a disastrously reactionary measure, which it will be hard to reverse. The case in England is probably different from the case in France or Germany. Would those who know these countries suggest that French or German soldiers will not return to the land after the war? I will only add that I visited a school today in a small country town and found that seven boys at the top of the school had been prematurely withdrawn under the new concessions.—I am, sir, etc.,
C. OXON.

LINCOLN'S SOCIALISTIC DECLARATION.

In the sweat of the face shall thou eat bread; with the exception of the light and air from heaven no good thing has been or can be enjoyed by us without first having cost labour. And inasmuch as all good things have been produced by labour it follows that such things of right belong to those whose labour has produced them. But it has happened in all ages of the world that some have laboured and others without labour have enjoyed a large portion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue. To secure to each labourer the whole product of his labour, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any government.—Abraham Lincoln.

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend

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Labor Unrest in Britain.

ENGINEERS AND THE WAR.

On the outbreak of the European war it became at once apparent that it was to be a war of equipment more than anything else. The side with the greatest number of the largest size guns and the greatest quantity of ammunition would be the victor providing that no new factor entered into the struggle. The engineer, therefore, suddenly became a person of very great importance, and, until quite recently, Cabinet Ministers, M.P.'s and the general public have been engaged in singing the praises of the man with the hammer and the file.

"The man at the bench is as good as the man in the trench." So reads the poster which is displayed on most of the armament works, together with letters of thanks and appreciation from the War Office and the Admiralty. The skilled worker was at first allowed to join the forces with hardly any restriction until came the fear of a shortage of men for Government engineering contract work.

Men engaged on such work are now rarely accepted in the Army or the Navy.

WORKING AT HIGH PRESSURE.

In many parts of the country engineers are working more hours than they ever did before in their lives. To work for twelve and fourteen hours per day, to be followed by Saturday and Sunday working, is now quite a common occurence in armament centres. The sickness rate among members of the A.S.E. has been steadily increasing during the past six months, a fact which is undoubtedly due to the strain of the long hours worked. This, together with the great increase in the cost of living, has caused the engineers in many districts to make applications for increases in wages or for a wages bonus for the period of the war. Needless to say, the employers are not at all anxious to part with any portion of their extra war profits, and a storm of abuse has been showered upon the heads of engineering and shipbuilding workers generally.

ABUSING THE WORKERS.

Taking up the cue given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his speech at Bangor, the capitalist Press has stigmatised these workers as unpatriotic, drunken, lazy, and heaven knows what else. Hints have been thrown out that should any engineers strike to enforce claims for increased wages, as they did on the Clyde, then they should be made to work by compulsion under some kind of martial law.

WHAT IS BEHIND IT?

Is there more behind all this flow of words aimed at the engineer than the mere objection on the part of the employers to increased wages? On the pretext that there was a shortage of skilled workers the engineering employers asked the trade unions concerned a short time ago to suspend their trade regulations for the period of the war—in other words, to allow unskilled workers to be employed on work which has previously been done by skilled mechanels. The Under-Secretary for War, Mr. Tennant, has made the same request in the House of Commons. However, the men are not "having any" (to use the workshop phrase), in spite of the assurance of the employers that upon the return of pre-war conditions the trade regulations could be resumed. The man in the workshop does not trust the employer, and is not prepared lightly to loosen his hold on what few privileges he is allowed to enjoy. These privileges have been won by years of fighting and striving on the part of trade union engineers, and to allow them to be set on one side in the manner suggested will most certainly be strenuously opposed by all engineering workers.

This, then, appears to me to be the reason why Cabinet Ministers, shareholders and capitalistic pressmen have commenced this campaign of calumny against a body of men who, but a short time before, they were united in praising. First it was the docker who was lazy, now it is the engineer—whose turn will it be next? Not the shareholder, who calmly pockets his enhanced dividends, and then proceeds to abuse the men who made the dividends, we may be sure.—

W. McLAINE.

THE CLYDE ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

That the strike at the present time is considered to be a very serious business is evidenced by the alarm of the Government at the action of the so-called lazy and drunken working class ceasing attendance at their employers' workshops. It is evident, after all, that it is this working class, drunken and otherwise, who have been producing all the material required for the war by the fact that Admiralty officials have been dispatched to induce the men to go back to work, and if they would not all return, to get at least a sufficient number to do all the Admiralty repair work. This, however, did not work, as the men refused to go back in sections.

The further move of the whole of the men's Executive coming down from London to Glasgow can be summed up as a "slim" policy.

First they held meetings of the District Committees and got them talked over; then they held a meeting of 500 shop conveners, whom they got to use their influence with the men before the officials met them, which they ultimately did on Monday, when very stormy meetings were held.

ARBITRATION.

The men's leaders denied responsibility, and put the onus on the Government pressure—possibly to safeguard themselves under the Defence of the Realm Act. A vote was taken on the acceptance of the employers' offer of ¾d. per hour increase, but this was defeated, the Executive Committee being instructed to call a further conference with the employers, and, failing a settlement on the men's terms, the matter to be submitted to Government arbitration.

The majority who voted in favour of the latter course accepted the seemingly inevitable with a very bad grace, as although the men agreed to start work on Wednesday, it was not until Thursday at breakfast time that a start was made.

We find the engineering shops seething with discontent, and it is difficult to say what may yet be the outcome.

The Press in Glasgow is insinuating that it is only a few men in the different shops who are stirring up the strife, and advocate the taking of drastic action under the Defence of the Realm Act against such men as they can find out to have been agitating. Such action, however, will only lead to further trouble, as the men are in no temper to stand any nonsense from the employers.

MORE SILLY ABUSE OF THE WORKERS.

The foregoing about sums up the position to date, and while agreeing with the leader in last week's "Justice" that a rise in wages is not the method for permanently emancipating the working class, still we find a feeling of solidarity on this question that we have not seen before, fomented by such speeches as that of Mr. Lloyd George on the "drink lure" and that of one of Glasgow's captains of industry, Mr. Galbraith, of the firm of Barclay, Curle & Co., who in a recent speech called the workmen dirty, lazy loafers. In face of such speeches one wonders whence come the hundreds of thousands of tons of shipping turned out on the Clyde every year—more than any other river in the world.

All these expressed opinions of the employing class, however, are to the good in stiffening the men's backs against the class of which Mr. Galbraith is a member, and we hope the results therefrom will be more permanent that what the strike would seem to indicate.

G.L.

TRANSPORT WORKERS.

The National Transport Workers' Federation are claiming a general increase of wages for transport workers on the ground of the increase in the cost of living. At first the employers refused to receive a deputation from the men. A deputation from the union waited on Mr. Runciman at the Board of Trade on Tuesday, and negotiations are reopened.

Advances have been granted at Hull, Glasgow, Leith, Bristol, Liverpool, and Cardiff.

The advance offered by the Port of London Authority of 3s. a week for permanent labourers, and 6d. a day and 3d. half-day for casual labourers is judged totally inadequate.

CLYDE DISPUTE.

Monday's conference between the representatives of the men and employers before the Government Committee was abortive. The members of the A.S.E. are now being balloted on the question whether they will regard the reference of the matter in dispute to a Court of Arbitration as final.

BARROW NAVAL YARDS.

The labourers at the Barrow shipyards of Messrs. Vickers, Limited, are demanding an increase of 5s. a week on time rates and 15 per cent. on piece rates. The three unions concerned are the Gasworkers, National Union of Labourers, and the Workers' Union. The offer of 3s. made by the firm has been rejected; 12,000 men are affected. They are still working.

OTHER SHIPYARD WORKERS.

The shipyard workers at Southampton are demanding an increase of 5s. a week and 10 per cent. on piecework. Negotiations are pending.

The strike of fitters and smiths at the shipbuilding yards at Goole ended Tuesday, when the men accepted the employers' offer of 3s. a week advance all round.

There was a conference at Newcastle between the North-east Coast Shipbuilding Employers and representatives of the National Amalgamated Union of Labour and the Gasworkers' Union to consider an application for an advance on behalf of unskilled men in the shipyards. The men were granted the same advance as was given to the skilled men—i.e., 4s. a week on time rates, and 10 per cent. on piece prices, the advance to take place this week-end.—"Justice."

Australasian Socialist Party

INAUGURATION OF AUSTRALIA'S

FIRST RED WEEK

Grand May Day Celebration

Concordia Hall, April 30.

DANCING, MUSIC, AND ORATORY.

Double Tickets 1s. 6d. Single 1s.

A week of sustained propaganda for the greatest human cause—**International Socialism.**

Monster Rally Meetings will be held at the following times and places:

Saturday, May 1, Newtown Bridge, 7.30 p m.

Sunday, May 2, Domain, 2.30 p.m.

Special May Day Orations at the Socialist Hall, 369 Pitt-Street, 7.30,

Monday, May 3, Balmain, 7.30.

Tuesday, May 4, Auburn, 7.30.

Wednesday, May 5, Darlinghurst, 7.30.

Bazaar Thursday, May 6, at the Hall, 369 Pitt-Street

Friday, May 7, Grand Finale at the Socialist Hall at 7.30

Auction, Social and Dance. Tickets 6d. Each.

Be there—

"For the Cause alone is worthy,
Till the good days bring the best.—William Morris.

FARMER.

'Tis done!' 'Tis done!' The great transaction's done. I have quit the farming business. My character is not one that lends itself to constant and tenacious applicability of ones activities to the soil. I am too philosophical and unpractical. You can not farm successfully unless you can grumble. Then again, I am so passionately fond of nature that I hate to rudely disturb her with such a cruel instrument as a plow. It hurts, yet I am glad of the experience, it has added one more to my interesting collection. My knowledge has been considerably enriched. I know now that Socialism is merely a philosophy born of idleness—that it has no economic foundation—is unpractical and unjust. I know that the country is going to the dogs and that the only way to save it is to lower the wages of farm hands to a dollar per diem, and to build a railway through every farmer's paddock. I know that no one gets a profit except the farm laborer, and that every farm is run at a loss. I know that the farmers are the free-est of men in a free community except when their promisory notes fall due for honoring. Ah—well these are the things that are and shall be, unless the light of economic truth penetrates the drab darkness of the farmer's brain.

With hearty farewell to
Plowshare and pruning hook.

GEE BEE.

THE COMFORTABLE MAN.

The comfortable man demanded that he should be protected against labour combining for its own ends. It was rather pathetic, this sudden demand of the comfortable classes for an age of rest and security. The world was to be made into a safe place for the comfortable man. The wage-earner must be content to submit to the fluctuations of the labour market, but the comfortable man's consols were to be made a fixed quantity. He wanted to know what was the meaning of this sudden demand on the part of those who used to talk so bravely about the battle to the strong, the survival of the fittest, God help those who help themselves, and so on. But, unfortunately, the labouring man was beginning to help himself, and so that law was not so popular as it used to be. They used to hear a good deal about might being right, but the comfortable man of to-day seemed to have a sudden revulsion of feeling in favour of the principles of the Sermon on the Mount. He was very much afraid those estimable persons who were demanding that labour should cease from troubling, and that the world should become a comfortable place where the comfortable man might rest, —[illegible] better were in for a Jerome K. Jerome.

CONSIDERATION.

(From "Life.")

Magnate: Have all the important coal and iron mines been grabbed and duly trustified?

Secretary: They have, sir. Every one of them.

Magnate: And have we gobbled up all the valuable railroad rights of way?

Secretary: We have complete control of that situation, sir. Our lines reach everywhere. Competing lines would be absurd and impossible to finance.

Magnate: Are any water power sites left?

Secretary: Not one. We have them all.

Magnate: And are the terminal sites and harbour facilities securely in our clutches?

Secretary: All that there is a cent of profit in, sir.

Magnate: Is there any public land left to be distributed?

Secretary: Practically none, sir.

Magnate: Very good. Give an interview to the press at once saying that I am unalterably and unqualifiedly in favour of the conservation of natural resources and the use of the public domain for the benefit of the public at large.

Make the means of production the people's own. All else will follow.

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The Red Dawn.

Rouse ye for battle,
Wage-thrall and chattel,
Comes the red dawn!
Strike now or never,
Fetters to sever;
Rise and deliver
Freedom from pawn!

Over the waters,
Starvation slaughters
Comrades of toil.
Rouse ye from slumbers,
Sleep that encumbers,
Mass ye in numbers,
Sons of the soil!

Famine and faction
Blend with reaction;
Justice is blind.
Come to the aiding:
Priestlings are trading
Narrowness fading—
Kith against kind!

File to the foemen,
Strike them with woe, men!
Haste to the fray!
Freed from his prison,
Labor is risen:
O'er the horizon
Bursts the new day!

—L. AUGUSTINE MOTLER.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ASQUITH.

(By George Landsbury.)

Sir,—Your speech in the House of Commons on February 11 was worthy of your past. It stamps you as a man utterly devoid of sympathy, and callously indifferent to the sufferings of the poor. It proves conclusively that your Government is tied hand and foot to the enemies and traitors who, taking advantage of this time of crisis and difficulty, rob and plunder the people. Once before in history one of your predecessors in office showed a similar indifference to the sufferings and misery of the poor. The late Lord John Russell, the famous Whig Prime Minister, speaking in Parliament in 1846, when Ireland was threatened with famine while her ports were filled with shiploads of corn, declared, "They (the Government) would take good care not to interfere with the ordinary operations of the merchants," caused the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent people, besides inflicting untold misery on thousands more, and Irish peasants to this day remember the great Whig Party only to curse it.

You are serving the interests of the exploiters much more effectively than did Lord John Russell. Mr. Churchill tells us our Navy, manned by the working class, has swept the seas clear of German shipping. Instead of this benefiting the British people, it has resulted thus far only in enriching the great shipowners, who are amongst the paymasters of both parties in Parliament. The fearful sacrifice of life caused by the loss of the Hogue, Cressy, Aboukir, Formidable, and others of His Majesty's ships has resulted in our merchant princes waxing fatter and fatter, and the people for whom all this sacrifice was made are told to be content to suffer because things might have been worse.

You must have had your tongue in your cheek when speaking of prices in 1870 and 1874. Why not tell us what price apples fetched in the Garden of Eden? It would be just as relevant. What you never explained—in fact, what you never disputed—is the fact that the poor are paying 2s. and 2s. 6d. a hundredweight for coal; 8d. and 8½d. for a 4lb. loaf, while the supply of all these foods is greater than a year ago, although the coal now sold in London at these outrageous prices is all being delivered on old pre-war contract prices. You never told us why shippers should increase their freight charges to the tune of from 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. You skilfully evaded all these points, and talked at large about non-existent dangers.

But you did tell us that all classes must make sacrifices. You are well aware that the workers always make sacrifices. Their lives in times of peace, as well as in times of war, are just one long sacrifice. Your friend, the late Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, told us that thirteen millions of people in these islands lived on the border of destitution. Your brilliant young colleague, Mr. Churchill, has told us—in times of peace, mind you—that "England is a Paradise for the rich and Hell for the poor." What more can the great working class do for you and your masters, the "idle rich," and the worst of all classes, the great financial magnates who control all the means of life? To-day, when without their leave and without any consultation Emperors and Governments have plunged the people of Europe into war, the manhood of Britain has rallied to your call in such numbers and with so much enthusiasm as to surprise both friend and foe. On the field of France, in the East, in South Africa, in the North Sea, and far away across the seven seas the working classes are defending a country which they do not own. I don't deny that men of other classes are also serving and showing splendid courage and endurance, but in their case it is for the England they own, and in numbers they count as five to ninety-five. You reward all this endurance, this loss of life, by asking the dependents of these men and the civilian population to suffer still more, and you insinuate it is necessary we should do so. There is not a single man or woman in the country who would not cheerfully endure any suffering which is unavoidable, for whatever our opinion of war may be, we do accept the doctrine that, when necessary, the nation should all suffer together.

With very great respect I ask you to look at home and consider the position in your own household. Is your wife suffering in a material sense? Are your children going without one single necessary of life? Are your fires burning low? No; in your home there is no shortage. In fact, there is abundance, as there is in the homes of all of us who are not of the working class. Contrast, then, your endurance for the common cause with the want and misery patiently suffered by the poor old-age pensioners, whose pittances in times of peace are inadequate enough; the wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors. Ask your wife to try existence on 10s. a week. Ask one of your women relatives to try and keep herself and six children on 27s. 6d. a week, as many a soldier's wife is obliged to do; and, if you are able, put yourself in the place of a man past middle life, too young for an old-age pension, too weak for heavy work, and who is not wanted by anyone, and can only scrape together a precarious living by odd jobs. If you will do these things you will begin to understand what suffering really means.

In another way the working class are suffering. Their little children are now to be sacrificed. So useless are the sacrifices of their fathers on sea and land that Great Britain—the richest and most powerful nation in the world—at the bidding of the greedy, avaricious monopolists who control both you and your Government, children are now to be sent into field and factory in order that profits may not suffer. Your Government is responsible for much, but this robbery of the children's playtime will be remembered when all else is forgotten. Suffering together! Is the childhood of any of the children of your class being ruined in this manner? Has any member of your family or any of your friends sent their twelve-year-old children to work? Of course not. Only the workers' children may be sacrificed in this manner, and all the toil and labour which has been given to improving their conditions during the past fifty years is thus being thrown away. You may have forgotten, but there is a scrap of paper which you might look up and ask your colleagues to consider. It is the agreement with Germany signed on behalf of Great Britain by the late Lord Salisbury and Sir John Gorst in 1890, which pledged Great Britain to raise the school age. Germany has fulfilled her part of the agreement; to her eternal dishonour Great Britain has so far refused. Not only so, but she is now, while fighting for a scrap of paper concerning another nation, delierately lowering the school age and allowing the education authorities to break the law of the land.

The next time you speak in Parliament on this subject, will you kindly explain in what manner your colleagues and fellow-members of Parliament are suffering material loss owing to the war? The salaries of members of the Government are safe, and so are the salaries of Members of Parliament. Therefore, plain people like myself are unable to understand what is your share and that of your colleagues in the sacrifices which the common people are enduring.

When all is said and done, Mr. Asquith, we will all admit you are playing your part splendidly. None of us deny your ability, your shrewdness. The kept Press of Britain welcomed your speech. They hoped it would quieten agitation and restore confidence, but don't be too certain. A greater man than you, Abraham Lincoln, once said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, some of the people all the time; but you can never fool all the people all the time." You have tried it on, and, so far, success has apparently attended your efforts; but do not be too sure. Organised labour, which has endured many things at your hands, is now wakening up. So far, you have kept the workers quiet by talking of the enemy beyond the seas. Your speech hes revealed a much more dangerous enemy, the TRAITORS WITHIN OUR GATES, and whatever inducements may be offered for fighting the alien enemy, we are determined that these traitors shall be dealt with in an effective manner, and we shall unite in our demand that the resources of the nation be so mobilised that the power of great monopolists, even though they sit on the benches behind you and give huge subscriptions to the party funds, shall be destroyed, and their power to plunder the people put an end to.

You wish, or say you wish, unity of purpose, unity of action in these days. To secure that you must change your methods; you must give up your service of the rich. If we are to be united in suffering, then you and your wife, and my wife, all of us who have more than our neighbours, must share with the poor and the weak. Until you are prepared to do this—and you could do so, and still not suffer hunger or want of any kind—I hope you will give up talking the cant and humbug of united sacrifice which, in your case, is just empty words.—"Daily Herald," London.

Melbourne Notes.

Jupiter Pluvis wept o'er Melbourne last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 9, 10, and 11, and retarded our propoganda meetings at Collingwood and Yarra bank. But despite rain and slush on Sunday evening a fair number turned up at the lecture delivered by the writer on "Parliament, Its Use and Abuse." The fallacy of attempting to patch up our crumbling social system by reforms was dealt with likewise the history and development of the machinery of state was outlined from the early Folksmote or Council of Tribal Elders down to the modern democratically based institutions of government for the control and perpetuation of the decadent capitalist system. The primary object of Socialist political action being but to abolish the class state and clean the way for the inaugural of the Industrial Democracy, which means the ending of the class struggle, a struggle that has been in all ages, a battle for legality on the part of the workers, a fight for the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the master class, but denied the slave and withheld from him by the power of legality, the Government-controlled organised might of police and military forces. The Socialist aim being to control the capitalist, powers of reaction, and put them out of existence along with the system of exploitation of the many by the few and others in Socialism a system of society, where humanity, instead of as to-day existing for industry, industry will exist for humanity.

The inclement weather on Monday evening lessened the attendance at a fairly successful euchre party, held in the hall.

A special meeting took place on Tuesday evening to consider new methods of propaganda, but nothiing final was reached.

Friday evening, April 16th, with Comrade Seske as chairman, Zeegan, Parka, Anderson, and Reeton, as literature salesmen, a lively meeting was held at North Melbourne, during which one poor, old, bent-up, grey-whiskered working stiff took half a dozen fits in expostulation of the writer for telling the truth that this war is only a war for slavery, and that those who fight it and manage to return whole-skinned will have the option of becoming slaves in the factories of the victors or being gaoled by vagrancy, when it was pointed out that George V. was but an insignificant little brat, the toy and tool of scheming wholesale war mongers, the hoodlum, 19-year-old element in the crowd, whose patriotism amounts to decorating their hats with patriotic buttons and howling something about Tipperary, started a pandemonium, and the crowd swept in with a rush, knocking the speaker off the box. After about three such onslaughts the meeting broke up by a procession of militants up the main street with a howling mob of several hundred patriots who expressed their British freedom by means of sundry pieces of ill-aimed road metal and decayed fruit, but except for a few bruises we are still alive, and going strong.

A picnic will be held at Hampton after the eight-hour procession on the 26th, whilst Sunday, April 24th, Comrade Norbury, of the S.L.P., will lecture on "The Downfall of the International."

H. SPENCER-WOOD,
47 Victoria-street, City.

"The Anglican Synod commenced its sittings to-day. The Bishop delivered his pastoral address. Rev. J. Ashton, of St. Kilda, occupied a seat on the floor of the Chamber."—Hobart correspondent of Sydney "Daily Telegraph" (23/4/15). They might at least have offered the poor man a cushion.

"We charged right up to a horde of them one night, and the cowards threw up their hands and shouted: 'We surrender, don't shoot.' Our captain shouted: 'Shoot every man down.' So we did, and took no prisoners."—Letter from a British soldier, published in our humane, atrocity-hating daily papers.

Gems from Shakespeare.

A PORTRAIT OF A LORD.

Came there a certain lord, neat, trimly dressed,
Fresh as a bridegroom; and his chin, new reaped,
Showed like a stubble-land at harvest-time.
He was perfumed like a milliner,
And 'twixt his finger and his thumb he held
A pouncet-box which ever and now
He gave his nose and took't away again.

THE CUR IN OFFICE.

Lear: A man may see how this world goes with no eyes; look with thine ears. See how yond justice rails upon yond simple thief; hark in thine ear. Change places, and handy-dandy which is the justice, which is the thief. Thou hast seen a farmer's dog bark at a beggar?

Gloucester: Ay, sir.

Lear: And the creature run from the cur? There thou mights't behold the great image of authority; a dog's obeyed in office.

WEALTH COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS.

Through tattered clothes small vices do appear,
Robes and furred gowns hide all. Plate sin with gold.
And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks;
Arm it in rags, a pigmy's straw doth pierce it.

THEY FOOL US WITH PALLIATIVES.

And oftentimes to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths;
Win us with honest trifles to betray us
In deepest consequence.

THE PHYSIC FOR POMP.

Poor naked wretches, wheresoever you are,
That bide the pelting of the pitiless storm,
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,
Your looped and windowed raggedness, defend you
From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en
Too little care of this! Take physic, pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel,
Tha tthou may'st shake the superflux to them
And show the heavens more just.

ECONOMIC DETERMINISM.

Men's judgments are
A parcel of their fortunes, and things outward
Do draw the inward quality after them,
To suffer all alike.

THE PROLETARIAT'S PORTION.

And nothing can we call our own but death,
And that small model of the barren earth
Which serves as paste and cover to our bones.
For God's sake, let us sit upon the ground
And tell sad stories of the death of kings.

THE STATE OF MAN.

This is the state of man: To-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope; to-morrow blossoms
And bears his blushing honors thick upon him;
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,
And when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a-ripening, nips his root.

On the battlefield of industry unite.

On the battlefield of politics unite.

Seize the powers of government.

Use the powers of government—in self defense.

Explain till our class, like the capitalist class, understand the political method of class defense.

Explain till millions of the roused workers of all political parties clasp hands at the ballot box in a political party of their own class for the defiant self-defense of their own class.

All such explanations, all such teachings, tend powerfully to rouse the working class to a consciousness of themselves, make them eager to defend themselves, both on the industrial field and on the political field—with all their forms of power.

The legal right to own privately the industrial foundations of society must be destroyed, legally. If the capitalists should become anarchists and illegally resist legal methods they could not reasonably object to having their own laws against anarchists applied to themselves vigorously.

—"War—What For."

We depend upon you to increase the number of our subscribers.

"I am aware that the price of bread has risen, and that alternately the size of the loaf has been reduced."—President of British Board of Trade. It is wonderful what men in high places find out.

"I do not share the opinion of some of my countrymen that the Germans are fools."—Lord Charles Beresford. The German submarine is sinking that notion.

While the British worker is being cajoled into making sacrifices in the factories and on the battle-fields, some of his employers are dying full of years, wealth, and patriotism. Wm. Stirling (iron) left £812,000; Sir Frederick Howard (iron), £190,000; and David Wilkie (flax), £194,000.

"This is not the time to talk of peace."—Prime Prime Minister Asquith.
No, most people are talking of pieces.

When you have finished with this paper hand it to a friend.

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Socialism:

The Goal of Civilization.

MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS.

By Rev. Chas. H. Vail.

Now it must be perfectly clear to all that if the labourer's servitude is caused through the appropriation by a class of the means of production, their emancipation can only be accomplished by their again becoming the owners of the instruments of toil. But individual ownership is impossible, owing to the subdivision of labour and the immense sale of production. The solution, however, is not hopeless, for the change in the nature of production gives us a clue to the means by which the contradiction may be eliminated. As production has been socialised, the means of production should also become socialised. Tools used in common should be owned in common. We should make the method of ownership correspond to the method of operation. This private ownership of the instruments of production is becoming more and more incompatible with the nature of these instruments. Their magnitude and social character mark them for social ownership and control.

Here, then, is the solution of the contradiction between social production and capitalist appropriation. This incongruity can only be abolished by restoring to the people the control of their economic interests. Although it is impossible for them as individuals to regain this control—for the industrial system of the future must be systematised—nevertheless, they can bring these interests under collective control, substituting for the present irresponsible rule of the few, responsible public agents who will manage the affairs of society in the interests of all the people.

One of the strangest things is that people should consent to leave their industrial interests in the hands of irresponsible persons to be controlled for private emolument. The present economic rulers hold the livelihood of the people in their power and admit of no responsibility. This department of life is of the utmost interest to every many. Why should a man be deprived of a voice in the industrial group of which he is a member more than in the political group Of what value is it to have democratic politics and not industry? Socialism proposes to substitute a popular self-government in the industrial as in the political world. Economic democracy is a corollary of political democracy. Socialism would bring this industrial regime under popular government, to be exercised by the people in the interests of the people.

The present industrial regime is despotic. In place of this despotism it is proposed to substitute a social democracy. There is no reason why we should have sovereign rule in the industrial realm more than in the political; or why we should abrogate chattel slavery and leave untouched wage slavery.

Industrial democracy being in the line of evolution is certain of attainment. Democracy has already been attained in politics and religion, and industry is passing through similar stages of development.

In the early period of human history men fought singly. Next they gathered into groups for self-preservation, forming the tribe or nation, which necessitated a leader, chief or king. When these rulers began to abuse their power the people rose in their might and asserted their independence. They dethroned the monarchs and selected their own governors, making them responsible to society for their official acts.

In religion we find the same development. Men first worshipped alone, then they gathered into groups and formed religious societies. These organisations were led by men appointed for the purpose. When the priests began to abuse their power the people rebelled. Reformations were inauguarted and religious democracy established.

Do we not find the same thing in industry? Men, as we have seen, first worked individually, as in the Handicraft Stage, then gradually they became associated in groups and division of labor was introduced in the Manufacturing Stage. These associations grew into greater and greater magnitude, as in the Factory Stage, each requiring special direction and management, and so the master workman developed into an industrial chief—a captain of industry. These rulers, like those in politics and religion, have perverted their power and the people are rising and will make their economic rulers, as they did their political and religious rulers, responsible to themselves. Democracy has always followed despotism. Will it fail in the industrial realm? No. We shall have an industrial republic planted upon the foundation of our political republic.

Socialism, then, logically demands the socialisation of the instruments of production to correspond with the socialism of production on the one hand and political democracy on the other.

Now, is there any evidence that this demand is nearing realisation? A careful discerner of the times realises that the Kingdom of Socialism is at hand. The rapid development of modern industry evidences that the transformation is much nearer than many seem to think. We have traced the evolution of industry from the handicraft stage of production through the period of manufactures and on into the era of modern mechanical industry. But this last period has taken on several phases.

In the beginning of this era there was individual ownership of social tools. But as machinery developed and the wastes of competition necessitated the massing of large capital that production might be cheapened and rivals undersold, it has been more and more difficult for the individual capitalist to furnish the requisite means, and so the joint stock company arose.

From the individual ownership of social tools, then, we pass to the next stage—the joint-stock or corporation ownership of social tools.

The origin of the joint-stock company completed the evolution of the individual capitalist. We have seen how at first he was a manual labourer working with his men, but the possession of a little capital raised him above manual labour and he became a mental labourer, a manager, who received wages of superintendence. But the possession of more capital raised him above even the labourer of direction, and he handed this function over to a hired employee, thus becoming a mere interest receiver or profit monger. When the corporation entered industry the two functions of manager of industry and owner of tools became divorced.

The capitalists united in a joint-stock company do not pretend to labour, but hire a manager, in whose hands they place their capital, and whose business it is to make profits for the stockholders. The whole capitalist class, as such, have thus become superfluous, the services previously performed by them being handed over to hired managers. If the capitalists should take it into their heads to emigrate to Europe or the moon, industry would go on just the same, for industry is to-day socially organised from the bottom to the top. The capitalist to-day is purely a useless organ in production, and being such he must disappear. In economics, as in biology, as soon as an organ becomes useless it is eliminated.

The next phase of the development was the union of these companies into a trust. The appearance of the trust upon the industrial horizon is the most significant phenomena of the present day.

In New Jersey—that little State which has the honour of doing so much for Socialism by aiding in the trustification of industry—there are incorporated 4,495 companies, aggregating a capital of about $1,400,000,000, nearly all of which are trusts in the now most popular sense of the word; that is, combinations having for their object the monopoly of a certain product of industry, public service, or valuable mines, real estate, water power, etc. The "New York Journal of Commerce," a recognised authority on matters commercial, makes the statement that the trusts now control 90 per cent. of the capital which the census of 1890 showed as the total invested in manufacturing enterprises.

The gradual development of competing industries into monopolies is destined, at no distant future, to realise the ideal for which we labour. One who understands the causes which have led to the substitution of combination for competition, well knows the impossibility of ever returning to the latter. The choice must be made between monopoly under private control and monopoly under public control, for monopoly in some form is bound to obtain. As the corporation is more powerful than the individual, so the trust is more powerful than the corporation. Concentration in one industry necessitates concentration in all. The efficiency of capital in large masses is what has been called the law of industrial gravitation. Associated capital and machinery are necessary to effective and economical production. The return of the days of competition and small things would constitute a reversal of all progress. Nothing can be more visionary than the free competition of fifty years ago. That condition has been buried in the same grave with the stage coaches, sickles, hand flails and tallow dips To restore the era of "free competition" we would have to destroy all modern machinery, factories and stores, imprison all inventors and punish progressiveness with instant death. As day follows night, so monopoly follows competition. The death of hand lsour meant the death of the old competitive system. As soon as we passed into the era of social organised labour it was but a question of time when monopoly would rule the day. The business of the future must be done by organised capital; it is the only way the needs of the people can be met.

The question is, Shall we have organised capital in the hands of individuals, or in the hands of society? The choice is not between competition and combination, for the former is rapidly disappearing. Combination either of the few or many is inevitable. Combination is the socialistic way of doing blusiness; competition is the individualistic way.

Industry, then has successfully passed from the handicraft stage of production into the era of manufactures, and from thence into modern mechanical industry, and this era has evolved into the corporate or joint-stock stage, and is now rapidly taking on the form of monopoly. But this monopolistic stage, which has been entered, is not the end, for as individuals have combined into corporations, and corporations into trusts, so trusts will combine into a Co-operative Commonwealth. This being logical is inevitable. In economic evolution there is no retrogression. It is only in universal combination that a complete consummation can be attained. Trusts must combine into the great trust—the nation. There is no more possibility of our re-entering any of the past eras of production from which we have evolved than there is of the butterfly re-entering the chrysalis. The stage of handicraft and manufacturing, and even the competitive stage of modern industry has passed, or is rapidly passing, into innocuous desuetude. As slavery gave way to feudalism and feudalism to capitalism, so capitalism must give way to Socialism. But everything in its own order, first the blade, then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear.

The fruits of industrial evolution are now reaped by the few. The trust is Socialism for the few at the expense of the many. What we want in Socialism for all at the expense of none. The trust utilises the methods of Socialism—combination, co-operation and co-ordination—to get the best results from man and nature without the Socialist aim and spirit. Every trust virtually admits the truth of Socialist charges, that competition is wasteful and that by combination the cost of production is greatly reduced and harmony restored to the industrial realm. The only solution of the problem is that which has been pointed out—the socialism of the trust, that the benefits now monopolised by the few may become the inheritance of all. The choice must be between plutocratic Socialism and Democratic Socialism.

The development of the trust is a great annoyonce to the middle class of small producers and distributors, and so we find them raising a hue and cry about the tyranny of the trust. Why is this? It is because they belong to the competitive stage of modern industry, which stage is fast being supplanted by the monopolistic, and as a result they are being forced into bankruptcy. The trust, which is the logical sequence of the competitive system, is the great labour-displacing machine of the big capitalist. Of the 14,000 failures annually 87 per cent. are those whose capital was $5,000 or less, and 9 per cent. those whose capital was over $5,000, but less than $20,000. Consequently of the total failures only about 4 per cent. have a capital in excess of $20,000.

But this is not all. We are told that of the 1,168,343 firms doing business in the United States and Canada in 1897, 243,332 either failed or wound up their affairs after losing their last dollar. At this rate it would take but about five years to wipe out the existence of the whole middle class were there not an equal number standing ready to invest their small earnings or inheritance in middle class enterprises. But the supply is not inexhaustible. The wealth of these aspirants of bankruptcy will soon be absorbed by the plutocracy and then society will be divided into two classes—a few hundred prodigiously wealthy families on the one side and the great mass of proletarians on the other.

(To be continued.)

Have you seen the children playing—in the street?
Did you note their boots and stockings—and their feet?
Grimed and festered, blue with chilblains—children's feet?

Have you seen the dens where little children sleep—
Foetid dens, where children cry and scratch and sleep,
Where the fleas—and worse—their horrid vigil keep?

And the devil—does he chuckle as he sees
Little children left to cry and starve and freeze,
While we others—warm and fed—are on our knees?

F. G. LAYTER in the "English Review."

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at

War on Enemy Trade.

Two Playing the Same Game.

(By CALIBAN.)

The British manufacturers according to their own story are now having the time of their lives capturing "enemy trade."

The "enemy's (we mean of course Mr. Plute's enemy the German capitalist) ships have been swept from the seas and in the general confusion and hilarious uproar the extent to which the British shipping has been swept from the seas also and trade lost to established British lines, escapes notice. The losses of British shipping are to be classified under three different heads. Each amounts to a formidable total and when all are taken together it will be found that they are not much inferior to those of Germany, excepting of course that the running of German ships has been completely suspended by the war. The four headings are: sunk by German cruisers, 67; destroyed by submarines and mines about 60; Interned in German ports, 74; locked up in Black Sea and Baltic, number unknown.

No figures are available as to the number of ships interned at Trieste and Fiume, the busy Austro-Hungarian ports which were visited by important British lines. According to a statement recently published in the Herald, Germany lost 80 steamers captured and 180 interned in Allied Ports, but Britain has lost over 200 herself, and the destruction by submarines continues. Furthermore a large number of the very best steamers have been seized as scouts and transports, so that altogether there is a huge shortage of British shipping.

Now let us turn to the United States, a country which has previously been dependent on British shipping, and see what is taking place. The current issue of the American Review of Reviews has the following: "The year 1914 was one of the poorest for American shipbuilders. The year 1915 promises to be one of unprecedented activity. In the first 36 days of the present year orders for forty-eight ocean going vessels were booked, and among the lot was a contract for building two ships for British owners. The head of one of the large shipyards announces that he has closed sufficient business to keep 6,000 men engaged two or three years. Most of the vessels for which orders have been placed are of good size, ranging from 6,000 to 9,500 tons net registry. While the majority are designed as additions to established American lines, some are intended for the transatlantic service in competition with cargo boats that have had command of the trade for many years. In gross tonnage the forty-eight vessels contracted for represent probably as much, if not more, than the total average for one year in recent times for merchant shipping."

Let it be borne in mind that this war has followed shortly after the opening of the Panama Canal, which has changed the geography of shipping routes of the world.

Here is a nation which hitherto was of no account in the shipping world, launching forth in building a great mercantile marine. Her shipyards ring with an internal din and the hammers of hell rattle on the hot iron, while submarines, mines and automobile torpedoes sink the ships of her rivals.

Would it be surprising if America became a more formidable shipping rival than Germany? Who has forgotten the days of the American clipper? when the Stars and Stripes flew in every port—the beautiful clipper superceded by that great economic developement, the application of iron to shipbuilding.

And what of those other neutral countries whom neither prayers nor imprecations can persuade to enter the noble strife for "liber-r-r-r-tee.?" What of Japan who budges not to send a contingent of militarism-squashers but merrily proceeds to loot China? What of Italy, of Greece, and the newly formed Scandinavian League? The shipyards of Ansaldo Bros., and of Mitsui Bishu, might tell a story. Truly the slung-shot and sandbag method of industry—the economic activity of Bill Sykes and Ned Kelly—has its lamentable side from a capitalist point of view. It is not all beer and skittles for the footpad whose thrift and industry have accumulated a huge swag.

At the present moment in Wellington and Auckland and other industrial centres, while certain scoundrelly persons are mouthing a hollow and spurious patriotism, they are at the same time, for class reasons, inflicting a savage boycott on hundreds of our best citizens. As a result hundreds of British-born women are enduring misery, hundreds of British-born children are in want, and British-born babies are being done to death. The foreign foes who drop bombs on undefended towns are not nearly so cruel and criminal as these baby-killing Huns of N.Z.

—Maoriland Worker.

The receipt of a copy of this paper is an invitation to become a subscriber.

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A Woman's Letter.

Once upon a time somebody said "The Law was a bass," well, the law of Sydney is a bass, and a mule, and a Willie goat, and a donkey, and a few more things. The inspired Police, acting according to the spirit of the law, have arrested Socialists for useing "obscene language" and obstructing the traffic, this being so they should have been punished according to law, this was not done, the Magistrate stating in open Court, that he was going to wait for the result of the P.L.L., Conference. What had the P.L.L., Conference to do with punishing men who break the law? The Magistrate did not seem to know or care. These men either broke the law, or the Police commited perjury. Then our brand new Chief Secretary, the white Mr Black, said he was going to look for some nice cosy corners where Socialists could meet and have a little parley vous, and of course, as Mr. Black knows nothing about making laws to govern free speech, he had to take the head of the Police along with him, to show him what to do and how to act. So that we are really living under Police made laws instead of under responsible government, but you don't laugh just here, I'll tell you when the laugh comes. Mr. Black, the Head of the Police, and in case the two mighty ones might get lost, two bold bad Socialists offered their services as guides. They said they knew all the cosey corners and then they led those two poor innocents into Market Street, they asked the Head of the Police what he thought of that spot, he said that was just the place for free speech and why did not the Socialists think of that before, then Wilson told him that was the spot he was lifted from and carried off to durance vile. I did not hear whether the Head of the Police turned black or whether Mr. Black turned white, but this is where you laugh, now then all together ha-ha-ha, ha-ha-ha. Oh dear, I can't laugh any more, Mark Twain nevet got off such a joke in his life. Now the Socialist Party should sue the Police or Government for false imprisonment of some of its members. The minions of the law seem to know less about law than the dogs in the street.

Our friend 'GEE BEE' is not going to be a martyr any more. He is going to take a donkey ride on the backs of the moilers and toilers, well, more power to him. There is not much fun in being a martyr. The man who can fight his way through the world will reach his destination much sooner and better than the one who lies down and allows himself to be walked over. I do not like martyrs myself, one live fighter is better than ten dead martyrs. Laugh and be glad is my motto, well, you can't laugh much if you are a martyr; laugh and the world laughs with you.

Weep, and you weep alone,
For the sad old earth
Has to borrow its mirth,
And you weep lifes's tears alone.

Moral: Don't weep if a man smite you on the cheek, please don't turn the other cheek and tell him to do it again, but just smite him in the solar plexus or any other old place that comes handy; that is providing you have given him no cause for offenee; if you are in the wrong, then you deserve that he should smite you, "blest is he who has his quarrel just, but five times blest he who gets his blow in fust." Well we don't want martyrs, we want honest, courageous men and women, who will not die for their principles but live for them and fight for them, and break down all barriers that oppose them. I can't imagine Gee Bee as a martyr at all, so if he takes that ride I hope he does not meet with a buck-jumper.

EILEEN BAWN.

Australian Peace Alliance.

45, Studley Park Road,
Kew. Melbourne.
April 22nd., 1915.

To the Editor,
Dear Sir,

I am instructed to forward for your perusal copy of a letter received from the Prime Minister bearing upon reported amputations and mutilations of Belgians by the Germans. You may think the letter of sufficient importance to notice.

COPY.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
Prime Minister.
Melbourne.
15.3631.3 March, 22nd, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your letters of the 21st, December and 4th, February last, relative to atrocities reported to have been committed by German soldiers. I am desired by the Prime Minister to inform you that this Government has no evidence on the subject other than that contained in the first seven reports furnished to the Belgian Minister of Justice by the "Commission of Enquiry on the Violation of the Rules of the Rights of Natious and of the Laws and Customs of War." Although many cases of atrocities by the Germans are revealed in those reports, none of the practising of deliberate amputations on Belgian children have been disclosed.

In reply to an enquiry addressed by the Commonwealth Government to the High Commissioner of Australia on 10th, of December to the alleged mutilation of Belgian males by the Germans, Sir George Reid advised that the Belgian Committee of Enquiry had no evidence or reports of such mutilation.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sgd.) M. A. SHEPHERD.
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Australian Peace Alliance,
No. 9, Second Floor, Flinders Buildings,
Flinders Street,
Melbourne.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.
LUKE JONES.
General Secretary.

CENTRAL EBECUTIVE.

Next meeting of the C. E. will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 3 p.m.

LUKE JONES, Gen. Sec.

Australia's First Red Week.

A week of sustained effort for the greatest human cause—International Socialism.

A Grand May Day Celebration will be held in Concordia Hall, Friday, April 30, from 8 to 12 p.m.

Mrs. Lorrimer will occupy the Chair, and short addresses will be delivered by Comrades Luke Jones and J. Kilburn.

Dancing, Music, Oratory, and Fellowship.

Double Tickets 1s. 6d. Single 1s.

Monster Rally Meeting.
Saturday, May 1, Newtown Bridge, 7.30.
Chair: C. Jackson, Speakers:—Mrs. Lorimer, Mrs. Paul, J. Kilburn, L. Jones, J. W. Roche.

Mass Demonstration.
Sunday, May 2, Domain, 2.30.
Chair: G. Nelson, Speakers:—Mrs. Lorimer, J. Kilburn, G. Slade, L. Jones, J. W. Roche.

Special May Day Orations.
In the Hall, 369 Pitt-St., at 7.45.
Chair: Miss Arkley, Speakers:—G. Slade, L. Jones, J. Kilburn, J. W. Roche.

Monster Rally Meeting.
Monday, May 3, Balmain, 7.30.
Chair: J. Sloane, Speakers:—Mrs. Paul, G. Nelson.

Monster Rally Meeting.
Tuesday, May 4, Auburn, 7.30.
Chair: . . . . . Speakers:—Mrs. Paul, L. Jones.

Monster Rally Meeting.
Wednesday, May 5, Darlinghurst, 7.30.
Chair: A. Jenkins, Speakers:—P. O'Connell, G. Slade, J. W. Roche.

Bazaar. Thursday. Bazaar.
Bazaar. May 6th., at 7.30., p.m. Bazaar.
In the Party Hall. Be There.
Friday May 7th,
Grand Finale in the Hall at 7.45., p.m.
Auction, Social and Dance. Tickets 6d each.

For the Cause alone is worthy,
Till the good days bring the best.
WM. MORRIS.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

On Sunday night last comrade Luke Jones surpassed himself in levelling an indictment at modern militarism.

The lecturer very ably demonstrated how militarism is an integral part of capitalist developement and is used to bolster up dominant economic interests. It therefore becomes the duty of all revolutionary workers, in their opposition to Capitalism from the Proletarian standpoint, to fight against all phases of militarism. It is as much in this phase of our propaganda, as anywhere, that the International character of our movement is demonstrated. It is also just here that the old International made its great mistake. Instead of clearly recognising that the Proletariat is essentialy propertyless, and therefore has nothing to defend. In an earnest desire to do the best under the circumstances, the old International chased after certain imaginary existance labelled with broad democratic generalisations, only to realise when too late, that the race was after so much mental mirage.

The Australasian Socialist Party has taken up a sound position relative to this matter. It must yet be remembered, that we here, were not shackled with the chains of conservatism and custom such as characterised the older movements. We have had a comparatively clear and well defined path to travel. Far from over applauding ourselves in this matter we should rather commend our comrades across the seas, who managed as it was, to overcome so many difficulties. It is now our duty to help build the real International, in full view of the mistakes of the past. Let our future clearly indicate that we at last recognise the fact, that we have no other interest than to "Lose our chains and gain the world."

Sydney Branch's coming week's activity will be absorbed in the Party's first 'Red Week' venture. All comrades should put their best into this just to show that at least we understand what really the International means.

I have to announce the receipt of 5s., for Free Speech Fund from comrade J. Gray.

The Sydney Branch's next Social and Dance will be held on Friday, May 7th., (the Friday following the Concordia Hall Social.) Come along and wind up 'Red Week' at our Social and Dance. Tickets 6d.

J. Q. Hon. Secretary.

SYDNEY FIXTURES.

Market Street, 7 p.m.
J. Jones, A. Jenkins, Mrs. Lorimer, J. W. Roche.

Park Street, 7 p.m.
F. Highfield, J. Dwyer, G. Slade.

Campbell-Street, 7 p. m.
J. McCormack, A. Rosenthal, Pat. Harford, A. Rees.

War—What For?

BY G. KIRKPATRICK

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AUBURN BRANCH.

The above branch meets every Monday night in the Class Room, School of Arts, Queen-street, at 7.45 p.m.

Propaganda meetings are held every Friday evening at "Bundock," corner Auburn-road and Queen-street, at 8.15 p.m.

Those who desire to join should give their names to the branch Secretary,

J. J. KEGG,

Books and Pamphlets on Sale.

Title.	s. d.
The Positive Outcome of Philosophy, also in same volume Letters on Logic and the Nature of Human Brain Work (Dietzgen)	4s.
Landmarks of Scientific Socialism (Anti-Duehring). Contains the most important portions of the larger work from which Socialism, Utopian and Scientific was taken (Engels)	4s
The Physical Basis of Mind and Morals. Shows the origin of mind and the relation of economics to morals (Fitch)	4s.
Essays on the Materialistic Conception of History (Labriola)	4s.
Socialism and Philosophy. In the form of familiar letters (Labriola)	4s.
An Introduction to Sociology. A new and useful work for beginners, tracing the development of this new science, with estimates of the work of Comte, Spencer, Ward, Small, and other Sociologists (Lewis)	4s.
Critique of Political Economy. Explains the general theory of surplus value and discusses the currency question (Marx)	4s.
The Poverty of Philosophy. A reply to Proudon (Marx)	4s
Looking Forward: A Treatise on the Status Woman and the Origin and Growth of the Family and the State (Rappaport)	4s.
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Capital, Vol. 11, The Process of Circulation of Capital (Marx)	8s.
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Introduction to Socialism. Excellent for beginners, 64 pages. (Richardson)	3d
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Industrial Socialism. Explains why the Socialist Party stands for economic as well as political action (Haywood and Bohn)	6d
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Socialism, What It Is and What It Seeks to Accomplish. (Wilhelm) Liebknecht	6d
No Compromise: No Political Trading Liebknecht's (Wilhelm)	6d
Value, Price and Profit. Explains the vital things wage-workers need to know about economics, Cloth. (Marx)	6d
The Socialists: Who They Are and What They Stand For (Spargo)	6d
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The Positive School of Criminology. Three lectures explaining what crime really is (Ferri)	2s
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Evolution, Social and Organic. Lectures showing that Socialism is the logical outcome of modern science (Lewis)	2s
The Militant Proletariat, a discussion of the American working-class and the Socialist Party (Lewis)	2s

NEWTOWN.

Newtown Branch.—Rooms 41 Enmore-Rd., Newtown. Propaganda meetings: Friday evenings, Johnstone-St., Leichhardt. Saturday and Sunday evenings, Newtown Bridge.

PROPAGANDA FIXTURES.

Saturday night: Newtown Bridge.

MAY DAY RALLY MEETING.

Chair: C. Jackson Speakers:—Mrs. Lorimer, Mrs. Paul, J. Kilburn, L. Jones, J. W. Roche.

Sunday night: Newtown Bridge.
F. Hancock. Speakers:—P. O'Connell, C. Jackson.

The Branch business meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, at 8 p.m. Members are requested to attend.

Ray Everitt, Secy.

Capitalism has plunged the workers into the furnace of war in the hope that it will forge the fetters tighter. It may have quite a different result. It may fuse the races into an international understanding—and then there will be a surprise.

Red Week

First Week in May

GET READY FOR IT.

Donations of cash and goods are wanted for Red Week Bazaar. All give something. All work to make it a success. Let the Anti-Socialists see Red during the First Week in May. Get busy Comrades and friends of Socialism.

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